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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,310	02/22/2002	Barry Paul Pershan	Verizon-25	3676
32127	7590	06/23/2004	EXAMINER	
VERIZON CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP INC. C/O CHRISTIAN R. ANDERSEN 600 HIDDEN RIDGE DRIVE MAILCODE HQEO3H14 IRVING, TX 75038			AMINZAY, SHAIMA Q	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2684		
DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/081,310	PERSHAN, BARRY PAUL
	Examiner Shaima Q. Aminzay	Art Unit 2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 02/22/2002.
2. Independent Claims 1, 14, 18, 21, dependent claims 2-13, 15-17, 19-20, and 22-26 are pending in the case.
3. The present title of the application is "Methods and Apparatus for Connecting Family Members".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- ◆ The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
- ◆ Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dent U. S. Publication number 20030125072, and in view of Chow et al. U. S. Patent number 6535730 B1.

4. Regarding claims 1, 2, 3, and 8, Dent teaches communications system detecting the group member caller telephone number (see for example, paragraph [0001], lines 1-3, and [0008], lines 1-5), and determining if the call is from a member of a group identified in a stored set of information associated with the called telephone number and when it is determined that the calling party is a

member of the group identified in said stored set of information (see for example, paragraph [0008], lines 2-19, the caller phone number (direct phone number, [008], lines 17-19) is being identified, [0042], lines 1-8, and further in detail the storing and retrieving group information and caller information see Figure 2, paragraph [0029] through [0030], and [0031], lines 1-3), and presenting the calling party with a list of other members of said group who have provided telephone numbers for contact purposes (see for example, Figure 3 (112), and paragraph [0036], lines 23-30, in Figure 3 the {Caller Selected "All Parties"} connects block 110 directly to block 112), and receiving information from the calling party identifying one or more members of the group who are to be included in a conference call (see for example, Figure 3 (106), and paragraph [0036], lines 6-12, in Figure 3 the {Caller Selected "A Specific Party"} connects block 110 directly to block 112), and initiating a conference call to any group members identified by the received information (see for example, paragraph [0041], lines 1-22, the received information ([0041], lines 4-10) and initiating call ([0041], lines 3 and 9-10), and conference call includes placing calls to at least two group members using telephone numbers corresponding to said two group members (see for example, paragraph [0006], lines 3-5).

However, Dent does not teach when call to a telephone number goes unanswered.

Chow teaches to detect when a call to a telephone number goes unanswered (see for example, column 47, lines 45-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Chow's wireless conference call and adding a party unanswered call with Dent's "multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network" ([0006], lines 2-3), and "multiple simultaneous calls in multiple simultaneous conversations ([0040], lines 1-4) to "provide mobile terminal subscribers with the same convenience as fixed telephone subscribers" (Dent, [0005], 2-4), and to provide processing control techniques and offer "new feature/functions, while offering low cost telephone service" (Chow, column 1, lines 21-22, and column 2, lines 11-12).

5. Regarding claims 4, 5, and 6, Dent and Chow teach claim 3, and further Dent teaches playing messages from multiple members of said group to the calling party prior to initiating said conference (see for example, paragraph [0023], lines 18-22, and paragraphs [0024] through [0027]), and initiating a conference call includes operating said peripheral device to initiate calls to any group member identified by the received information (see for example, paragraph [0041], lines 1-22, the received information ([0041], lines 4-10) and initiating call ([0041], lines 3 and 9-10), detecting when a call initiated to a group member identified by the received information is answered; and bridging the answered call with the call from the calling party (see for example, Figure 3, the flowchart depicting call handling that corresponds to the circuitry of Figure 1, the blocks 110, 112, 114, 116, and 106 describes conference call and calling party and subscriber phone number when calls are answered, paragraph [0036], lines 24-43).

6. Regarding claim 7, Dent and Chow teach claim 2, and further Dent teaches the automatic number identification information to a list of telephone numbers corresponding to the members of said group (see for example, paragraph [0036], lines 36-42).
7. Regarding claim 10, Dent and Chow teach claim 9, and further Dent teaches the telephone switch (Figure 1, 12) peripheral device to receive information includes operating the telephone switch peripheral device to receive a call from a member of the group. (see for example, Figure 1 (MSC, 12) connections, and paragraph [0013], lines 1-8).
8. Regarding claims 9, 11, 12, and 13, Dent and Chow teach claims 1, 10, and further Dent teaches the communication system can include Internet/intranet access (see for example, paragraph [0043], lines 1-12, connection to internet can generating an E-mail message including the received information with emergency contact phone numbers and transmitting the E-mail message to members).
9. Regarding claims 14, 17, Dent teaches a communications system (Figure 1 (10)), comprising: a telephone switch (12) for receiving calls directed to a subscriber telephone (18) number (see for example, Figure 1 (MSC, 12), and paragraph [0013], lines 5-7, and [0014], lines 1-5, and the MSC (12) receives calls addressed to subscriber, [0015], lines 22-26), and peripheral device coupled to said switch including (see for example, Figure 1 (MSC, 12), the Base Station Controller (14), the Radio Base Stations (16), Home Location Register (20), and

Visitor Location Register (22) are coupled to the Mobile Switch Center (12), paragraph [0012], lines 1-9), and circuitry for accessing a set of information corresponding to the subscriber telephone number (see for example, Figure 2, the functional block diagram of a subscriber database including procedure of accessing subscriber phone number [0010], line 1-2, [0029], lines 3-6, [0031], lines 1-4, the database activities of Figure 2 are directly related to the circuitry of Figure 1), and the set of information including a list of telephone numbers corresponding to a group of individuals associated with said subscriber telephone number (see for example, Figure 2, the functional block diagram of a subscriber database including block 38 that include the telephone numbers corresponding to a group and the subscriber phone number, [0010], line 1-2, [0029], lines 3-6, [0031], lines 1-13, the database activities of Figure 2 are directly related to the circuitry of Figure 1), and call conferencing circuitry coupled to said telephone switch for placing calls to members of said group selected by the calling party and for bridging said calls to the call placed by the calling party to the subscriber telephone number when said calls are answered (see for example, Figure 3, the flowchart depicting call handling that corresponds to the circuitry of Figure 1, the blocks 110, 112, 114, 116, and 106 describes conference call and calling party and subscriber phone number when calls are answered, paragraph [0036], lines 24-43), and a service control point coupled to said telephone switch including control logic for instructing said switch to connects the subscriber telephone number to said peripheral device (see for example, Figure 1, the Base Station

Controller (14) that is coupled to the Mobile Switch Center (12) connected to the Radio Base Station and make connection to the mobile (18) identifying the mobile phone number and processing the telephone calls, paragraph [0012], lines 1-17, and [0013], lines 5-7, [0014], lines 1-5, and [0036], lines 23-30).

However, Dent does not teach playing a message to a calling party who made an unanswered call to the subscriber telephone number and the message including the names of the group members who have included contact telephone numbers in said set of information

Chow teaches playing a message to a calling party who made an unanswered call to the subscriber telephone number and the message including the names of the group members who have included contact telephone numbers in said set of information (see for example, column 48, lines 1-14, the message is combination of alpha numeric letters that could be any message such as phone number).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Chow's wireless conference call and adding a party unanswered call with Dent's "multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network" ([0006], lines 2-3), and "multiple simultaneous calls in multiple simultaneous conversation ([0040], lines 1-4) to "provide mobile terminal subscribers with the same convenience as fixed telephone subscribers" (Dent, [0005], 2-4), and to provide processing control techniques and offer "new feature/functions, while offering low cost telephone service" (Chow, column 1, lines 21-22, and column 2, lines 11-12).

Art Unit: 2684

10. Regarding claims 18, and 21-26, Dent teaches a communications system (Figure 1 (10)), and storing a set of information including a list of members of a group associated with a telephone number who may be contacted (see for example, paragraph [0008], lines 2-19, storing group members information including phone numbers in database, [008], lines 1-19, [0042], lines 1-8, and further in detail the storing and retrieving group information and caller information see Figure 2, paragraph [0029] through [0030], and [0031], line s 1-3), and a digital storage medium with a set of stored information for providing a communications service (see for example, Figure 1, VLR (22), and HLR (20), "the VLR22, a database used to store information associated with visiting or "roaming" subscribers", paragraph [0014], lines 1-5, "the HLR 20 is used to stores information concerning subscribers to the wireless communication network 10", [0015], lines 1-6), and the set of information including for each group member who may be contacted and a contact telephone number (see for example, Figure 2, paragraph [0030], lines 8-20), and receiving information from the calling party indicating the group member or members who which the calling party would like to contact (see for example, Figure 3 (112), paragraph [0036], lines 23-30, the {Caller Selected "All Parties"} connects block 110 directly to block 112, and {Caller Selected "A specific Party"}), and initiating a conference call using at least one contact telephone number obtained from the set of stored information corresponding to a group member indicated by the received information (see for example, paragraph [0041], lines 2-22, initiating a

Art Unit: 2684

conference call (lines 2-4), and stored information corresponding to a group member (Figure 2, 38), paragraph [0038], lines 10-20, and [0031], lines 2-11), and presenting the calling party with a list of other members of said group who have provided telephone numbers for contact purposes (see for example, Figure 3 (112), and paragraph [0036], lines 23-30, in Figure 3 the {Caller Selected "All Parties"} connects block 110 directly to block 112), and the communication system can include Internet/intranet access (see for example, paragraph [0043], lines 1-12, connection to internet can generating an E-mail message including the received information with emergency contact phone numbers and transmitting the E-mail message to members).

However, Dent does not teach when call to a telephone number goes unanswered.

Chow teaches to detect when a call to a telephone number goes unanswered (see for example, column 47, lines 45-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Chow's wireless conference call and adding a party unanswered call with Dent's "multi-extension functionality to a group of mobile terminals in a wireless communication network" ([0006], lines 2-3), and "multiple simultaneous calls in multiple simultaneous conversation ([0040], lines 1-4) to "provide mobile terminal subscribers with the same convenience as fixed telephone subscribers" (Dent, [0005], 2-4), and to provide processing control

techniques and offer "new feature/functions, while offering low cost telephone service" (Chow, column 1, lines 21-22, and column 2, lines 11-12).

11. Regarding claims 19, and 20, Dent and Chow teach claim 18, and further Dent teaches stored messages corresponding to at least some of group members who have contact telephone numbers (see for example, Figure 2, the functional block diagram of a subscriber database including procedure of accessing subscriber phone number [0010], line 1-2, [0029], lines 3-6, [0031], lines 1-4, the database activities of Figure 2 are directly related to the circuitry of Figure 1), and at least two members of the group using contact telephone numbers obtained from the set of stored information and establishing a conference call (see for example, paragraph [0006], lines 1-14).

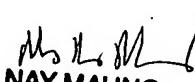
Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 form.

Inquiry

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shaima Q. Aminzay whose telephone number is 703-305-8723. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM -5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 703-308-7745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2600's customer service telephone number is 703-305-3900.


Shaima Q. Aminzay
(Examiner)


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
Nay Maung
(SPE)

June 16, 2004

Art Unit 2684